

# FLEET WEEK 2007

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New York is a magical city. It is often referred to as the city that never sleeps, yet it is actually the city that never stops. There is always something new and exciting going on in New York. One of most magnificent of these events is called Fleet Week. It is a week celebrated each year when the city comes to life to show its Intense Patriotism.

It is a multiple celebration that includes:

- Appreciation for the Freedom of our Great Country
- Gratitude and respect for our Veterans
- Appreciation, compassion and hope for injured military men and women
- Memorials in recognition and thanks to military who gave their lives
- Pride and ultimate respect for the military men & women who serve today; recognizing them as a powerful, dedicated and intelligently strong force that make it their business to keep us safe.

During Fleet Week the people of New York take time to show their appreciation with a heartfelt thanks to the military, a thank you that is well deserved!

In turn the military takes advantage of this occasion to invite the public to step into their world and learn more about their lifestyle, weapons, ships and history.

CGC KATHERINE WALKER, the Coast Guard cutter responsible for New York Harbor's aids to navigation showed her true colors this Fleet Week as a hard working and truly multi-mission ship. Her crew provided harbor security near Ambrose Channel prior to the parade of ships; participated in the Fleet Week festivities; then served as the Patrol Commander at the close of Fleet Week, coordinating security escorts for the outbound Naval vessels. Several other Coast Guard cutters strategically stationed throughout the harbor accompanied her. This Coast Guard presence ensured smooth sailing and safe transit for the six large Naval vessels. CGC KATHERINE WALKER joined the Parade of Ships between the USS WINSTON CHURCHILL and USS WASP. The cutter rendered honors to Fort Hamilton Army Base and Ground Zero during the inbound transit. After the parade, KATHERINE WALKER moored at Pier 90 in Manhattan with the CGC TYBEE and USS WASP. Her ship's crew scrubbed the ship, hoisted full dress and prepared for the Fleet Week festivities.

On site at Pier 90 in Manhattan "Patriotism" was electric in the air. Flags flying, people saluting; pride & respect for the military resonated everywhere. Extreme security was quite evident and it somehow added to the overall importance of the event.

The public lined up for tours. Parents with curious, wide eyed small children couldn't wait to open their world to the magnificence of the large ships. Veterans waited to board ships that would take them back in time enabling them to relive the memories of the past. Young men and women considering a military career curiously anticipated a bird's eye view of military life.



USCGC KATHERINE WALKER and a Fireboat in the Parade.



Auxiliary Monica Valdes explains the intricate navigation system on the bridge of KATHERINE WALKER.

## FLEET WEEK, CONTINUED

Proudly moored on pier 90 site was the United States Coast Guard Cutter KATHERINE WALKER in all her splendor, showing full colors. From dockside the bold letters that signified her importance in this event were quite evident as they stood out in the sunlight: "KATHERINE WALKER, Keeper of New York Harbor". Indeed it was a day for this ship to shine, and it was a welcome opportunity for members of the USCG Auxiliary and USCG Reservists to partake in this event by conducting structured informative tours of this great vessel.

Tours were conducted for two entire days on this 175 foot vessel; the majority of the public was overwhelmed with appreciation for learning so much about this great ship, its crew and its historical significance.

A very welcome guest Rear Admiral Timothy S. Sullivan, Commander First Coast Guard District stopped by to show his support. He was piped aboard the KATHERINE WALKER and took time to address the Captain and crew. He also addressed the crew of the Patrol Boat TYBEE that was tied up alongside the KATHERINE WALKER.

The professionalism, outgoing friendliness and never ending enthusiasm of the tour guides added great value to the event. Their interaction in this event allowed the officers and crew of the KATHERINE WALKER the opportunity to partake of the festivities and events of New York City. In fact if you believe you saw the Captain, LT Amy Florentino and some crew members on the Late Show with David Letterman you were right. We are pleased to report that they had an enjoyable evening with Mr. Letterman, an experience they will always remember.

Auxiliary tour guides included Dee Thompson ADSO-SP 1SR, Jim Crincoli FSO-VE 4-4, Monica Valdez, SO-PA 10-2, Mike Chalet FSO-PS 10-2, Eric Smith SO-MS 10-2, Rino Ramz, 11-11 and Duane W. Farabaugh 11-3. USCG Reservists who served as tour guides included EMCS Richard Publik, EM1 Michael Sanphy.



The CGC KATHERINE WALKER crew with David Letterman.



Auxiliary member Jim Crincoli stands ready to give tours of CGC TYBEE.



Auxiliary member Dee Thompson with CG District One Commander Rear Admiral Sullivan.



LT Amy Florentino with Mayor Bloomberg at Gracie Mansion Commanding Officer's reception. (note: Bloomberg's KW hat).